

# Forest Legacy Project



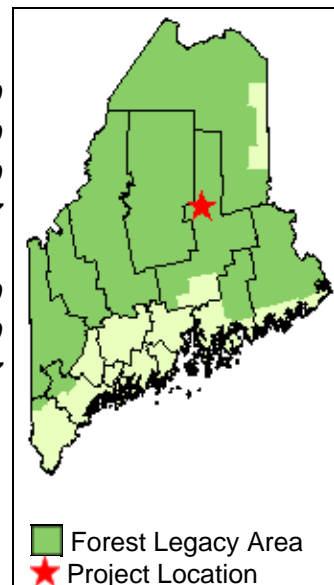
## Katahdin Forest Expansion, T2R8WELS, T3R7WELS, T4R7WELS, T4R9NWP, Lakeview PI (Penobscot and Piscataquis County), Maine

### FUNDING HISTORY

<b>Forest Legacy Program FY 2010 Funding</b>	<b>\$ 3,700,000</b>
<b>FY 2010 Non-Federal Cost Share</b>	<b>\$ 4,300,000</b>
<b>FY 2010 Project Costs</b>	<b>\$ 9,000,000</b>
<b>FY 2010 Project Acres</b>	<b>19,647</b>

<b>Forest Legacy Funding to Date</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$ 9,000,000</b>
<b>Total Project Acres</b>	<b>19,647</b>

<b>Tract Name</b>	<b>Size (acres)</b>	<b>Tract Cost</b>	<b>FLP Funding</b>	<b>Non-Fed Cost Share</b>	<b>Status</b>
Seboeis Lake – West Tract	2,256	\$ 2,400,000	\$ 0	\$ 2,400,000	President's Request 2010
Millinocket Forest	4,956	\$ 2,150,000	\$ 1,600,000	\$ 550,000	President's Request 2010
Lookout Mountain	3,574	\$ 620,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 170,000	President's Request 2010
Hunt Farm	3,073	\$ 620,000	\$ 450,000	\$ 170,000	President's Request 2010
Seboeis Lake – South Tract	5,788	\$ 3,210,000	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,010,000	President's Request 2010
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,647</b>	<b>\$ 9,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,700,000</b>	<b>\$ 4,300,000</b>	



**General Description** – The Katahdin Region, anchored by Baxter State Park, represents Maine's largest block of contiguous conservation lands (over 500,000 acres) including 194,751 acres of easement lands protected through the Katahdin Forest Project (FY'05 FLP). The Katahdin Forest Expansion seeks to add five critical parcels, totaling 19,647 acres, to these conservation holdings. The three northern tracts (East Branch tracts) are located east of Baxter Park near the spectacular East Branch of the Penobscot River. They include the Millinocket Forest (4,956 acre FEE), Lookout Mountain (3,574 acre EASEMENT) and Hunt Farm (3,073 acre EASEMENT) tracts. Acquisition of the East Branch tracts will secure critical snowmobile trails and recreational access. Further to the south, BPL seeks to acquire two tracts (one FEE and one EASEMENT) totaling 8,044 acres surrounding Seboeis Lake. The Seboeis tracts (Seboeis South and West), which include 19 miles of shore and island frontage would complete the State's conservation ownership around Seboeis Lake, a wilderness lake offering outstanding views of Mount Katahdin. All five properties have traditionally been under active commercial forest management and are key contributors to the local wood products industry.

## **PROJECT FEATURES**

### **Important:**

- A. FORESTRY: All five parcels have traditionally been managed for forest products by major forest product companies and are well suited to commercial forest management.
- B. FORESTRY: The five parcels are strategically located near communities such as Millinocket and Lincoln whose economies are heavily dependent on forest products industries which represents 36% of Maine manufacturing.
- C. WATER–RIPARIAN: The landmark 1982 Maine Rivers Study, conducted by NPS identified the East Branch Penobscot River System as "one of the least developed watersheds in the northeast U.S." and ranked it as 1 of 9 "outstanding river segments," in Maine.
- D. WATER–RIPARIAN: The Lookout Mtn. and Hunt Farm easements will protect the East Branch's high resource values including: ecological, scenic, fisheries, and boating. The Dept. of Environmental Protection classified it as AA, its top water quality rank.
- E. WATER–RIPARIAN: The Millinocket Forest tract includes expansive wetlands with diverse cover types such as spruce–fir swamp, dwarf shrub bog, mixed fen, alder swamp, and emergent marsh as well as two major stream drainages: Sandy Stream and Mud Brook.
- F. WATER–RIPARIAN: The Seboeis Lake tracts include about 19 miles of shore and island frontage including 5 miles of wetlands determined by Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (MDIF) to be of "special significance."
- G. WATER–RIPARIAN: The State's "Wildlands Lake Assessment" rated Seboeis Lake to be of "statewide significance," the highest ranking, due to its significant fisheries, wildlife, scenery, and cultural values.
- H. HABITAT: Approximately 70% of the Millinocket Forest Tract is located within the Baxter Region Beginning with Habitat Focus Area, an area of statewide ecological significance identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan.
- I. HABITAT: The glacial ribbed moraine of the Millinocket Forest tract is a unique natural community. One–third of the tract is designated as Wading Bird & Waterfowl Habitat supporting such species as black duck, American bittern and great blue heron.
- J. HABITAT: The river channels and tributaries in the northwest section of the Lookout Mountain parcel have been identified by Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP) as an Acadian Rivershore Ecosystem, an important natural



community.

- K. HABITAT: Recent inventories have identified 29 nesting loons on Seboeis Lake, the highest total of any lake in northern Maine other than Moosehead Lake.
- L. HABITAT: State biologists have mapped a major deer wintering area west of Northwest Pond and extensive wading bird and waterfowl habitat both along the lake shore as well as open wetlands away from the lake.
- M. ENDANGERED SPECIES: There are two known bald eagle nesting sites located just off the Seboeis West tract on BPL land. The protection zone around one of the nests extends onto this property.
- N. ACCESS–RECREATION: The proposed easements along the East Branch will help protect what the Mahoosuc Guide Service describes as "the most spectacular wilderness river in the northeast with falls and gorges interspersed with majestic views of mountains."
- O. ACCESS–RECREATION: MDIFW states that the "East Branch supports fisheries for brook trout, landlocked salmon, and smallmouth bass offering a myriad of experiences from fly fishing for brook trout and landlocked salmon to spin fishing for bass."
- P. ACCESS–RECREATION: Acquisition of the East Branch tracts will help to secure the integrity of Interstate Snowmobile Trail #85 in the area between Medway to Matagammon, a critical goal of the Maine Snowmobile Association.
- Q. ACCESS–RECREATION: The Lookout Mountain parcel includes uplands commanding spectacular views of Mount Katahdin and offering opportunities for both motorized and non-motorized recreation.
- R. ACCESS–RECREATION: The proposed acquisition will secure public access to 14 miles of shore on Seboeis Lake and 5 miles of island frontage for boating, angling and water access camping.
- S. ACCESS–RECREATION: The Katahdin Forest Expansion parcels will permanently guarantee traditional opportunities for hunting deer, moose and bear, as well as angling opportunities for native brook trout and other species.
- T. ACCESS–RECREATION: There will be full public access to all five parcels including important opportunities for motorized recreation and links in regional snowmobile and ATV trail systems.
- U. SCENIC: The Maine Wildland Lakes Assessment rated Seboeis Lake as having "outstanding scenic values" because of its views of Mount Katahdin and the Chairback Range.

- V. SCENIC: The upper elevations of the East Branch tracts offer striking views of Mount Katahdin and are part of the viewshed visible from Katahdin's peak, the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail.
- W. CULTURAL: Both the East Branch and Seboeis Lake were well traveled routes through the Katahdin region for Native Americans.
- X. CULTURAL: The Hunt Farm was the eastern terminus of the first hiking trail ever built up Mount Katahdin. Famous individuals who traveled through Hunt Farm include author Henry David Thoreau and famous landscape artist Frederic Church.

### **Threatened:**

- A. IMMINENT: The current owner of the East Branch tracts has eliminated commercial forest management and multiple use recreation from the properties. The easement and fee acquisitions will re-establish these traditional uses.
- B. IMMINENT – The landowner on the Seboeis Lake – West tract will sell to another entity if the property is not purchased for conservation in January, 2009.
- C. IMMINENT: The owner of the Seboeis Lake – South tract is marketing the property to second home developers and kingdom buyers.
- D. LIKELY: If sold privately, the East Branch properties would likely be acquired by a land speculator, developer or kingdom lot buyer seeking to capitalize on the extensive stream frontage, proximity to Baxter Park and spectacular views of Mt. Katahdin.
- E. LIKELY: The Seboeis tracts are under very high threat of conversion from forest uses to residential development. The 14 miles of lakeshore with spectacular views of Mount Katahdin could be split into many high quality camp lots.
- F. LIKELY: The Seboeis properties enjoy easy access from I-95 and Bangor International Airport and have a new power line at the boundary line. Access and utilities have facilitated development on nearby Schoodic Lake which has over 400 camps.
- G. LIKELY: As recently as five years ago, most land in townships bordering the east side of Baxter Park was owned by two industrial forest landowners. Now, after more than a half-dozen transactions, these lands have all been divided and sold.
- H. LIKELY: The Department of Conservation has documented a growing pattern of parcelization, timber liquidation, and subdivision of large timberland tracts in this region and throughout the Maine Woods.

### **Strategic:**

- A. CONNECTIVITY: The Millinocket Forest Tract abuts Baxter State Park to the northwest, The Nature Conservancy's Trout Mountain Preserve to the east and private conservation land to the north. Baxter Park is Maine's premier wilderness area encompassing Mount Katahdin, the state's tallest peak and the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail.
- B. CONNECTIVITY: The Lookout Mountain parcel is bordered to the west by privately conserved land extending to the eastern boundary of Baxter Park. BPL owns and manages the Wassataquoik Public Lands Unit just to the west of the Lookout Mountain and Hunt Farm parcels.

- C. CONNECTIVITY: The East Branch tracts serve as critical buffer in a growing conservation landscape extending from the East Branch of the Penobscot River, west to Baxter Park, and on to the Allagash, and 100-Mile Wilderness. In total, these lands encompass over a half million contiguous acres in conservation.
- D. CONNECTIVITY: The Lookout Mountain easement will greatly enhance the natural features of the area. For example, the Acadian Rivershore ecosystem along the East Branch and its tributaries are located in part on the parcel and in part on adjacent conservation lands.
- E. CONNECTIVITY: Currently, BPL owns approximately 13,372 acres around Seboeis Lake including approximately 70% of the 43 miles of lake shorefront. The proposed easement acquisitions will protect the remaining 30% of the lakeshore.
- F. CONNECTIVITY: All of the Katahdin Forest Expansion parcels include critical trail linkages for regional snowmobile and ATV trails. These acquisitions will play a critical role in the Governor's Task Force on Public Lands' effort to balance motorized and non-motorized uses in the Katahdin Region.
- G. NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE: The proposed acquisitions expand upon and complement the FLP investments in the Katahdin Region (Katahdin Forest Project, FY '05).
- H. NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE: The project area is part of the four-state Northern Forest which was the focus of a six-year study and policy development effort authorized by Congress in the early 1990's which help give rise to the Forest Legacy Program and other major forest conservation initiatives.
- I. NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE: Viewed from a landscape perspective, the Seboeis acquisitions will add to the southern end of the largest contiguous block of conservation land in the state of Maine, over 500,000 acres. From Seboeis Lake, one can travel through the Katahdin Forest project to the Nahmakanta Reserve, through the 100 Mile Wilderness to Baxter State Park and the Allagash Wilderness Waterway.
- J. STATE SIGNIFICANCE: The Millinocket Forest Tract includes 3,403 acres of the Baxter Region Beginning with Habitat Focus Area. Protection of this Focus Area is a priority of the State Wildlife Action Plan. The Millinocket Forest lands represent 30% of the unprotected land within the Focus Area.
- L. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: Through its location at the southern reaches of this conservation network, Seboeis Lake lies in a transition zone between established Maine communities such as Brownville and Millinocket and undeveloped forests and lakes. The camping opportunities, popular snowmobile trails, paddling and fishing resources offer an easily accessible experience in Maine's north woods.
- M. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: All of the parcels lie within one of the state's most productive wood baskets. Mills in the surrounding communities, including Millinocket, East Millinocket, and Lincoln are cornerstones of the local and regional economy. Statewide, forest-based manufacturing employs almost 20,000 people with a combined annual payroll of \$750 million, the largest payroll in Maine's manufacturing sector.
- N. ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE: The Katahdin Region is one of Maine's most popular areas for forest-based recreation, an industry that contributed \$1.15 billion in revenues in 2005 and employed 12,000 workers.

### **Ready:**

- A. PARTNERSHIP: The Trust for Public Land (TPL) has agreed to coordinate the conservation acquisition of the East Branch and Seboeis parcels in partnership with the Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands.

- **B. PURCHASE AGREEMENTS:** TPL has entered into a purchase option agreement with the current owner of the Millinocket Forest, Lookout Mountain, and Hunt Farm parcels. The option agreement will be assigned to the State when sufficient funding is secured.
- **C. PURCHASE AGREEMENTS:** TPL has entered into a purchase and sales agreement to acquire the Seboeis Lake – West tract and is working to secure an agreement on the other Seboeis Lake parcel.
- **D. APPRAISALS:** Preliminary appraisal work has been completed on the Seboeis parcels. Final appraisal work is underway for the Seboeis Lake – West parcel.
- **E. EASEMENTS:** The easements for the Lookout Mountain, Hunt Farm and Seboeis easement will follow the Land for Maine's Future easement guidelines (which is acceptable to Forest Legacy).
- **F. SURVEY:** Since most of the boundaries of the Seboeis properties include State lands, roads and waterbodies, only a limited amount of survey work will be needed to complete the transactions.
- **G. COST SHARE:** The Land for Maine's Future Program awarded \$1,764,000 to the Katahdin Forest Expansion Project in July, 2008 to provide the required state match for Legacy funding.
- **Supporting parties include:** Appalachian Mountain Club, Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce, Katahdin Area Working Group, Maine Congressional Delegation (Sen. Snowe, Sen. Collins, and Rep. Michaud), Natural Resources Council of Maine, Northern Forest Alliance, Northern Timber Cruisers, The Wilderness Society, Town of Millinocket and Trust for Public Land

For more information on the Forest Legacy Program, contact:

**Kathryn J. Conant**

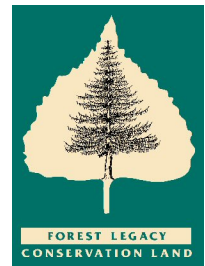
*National Forest Legacy  
Program Coordinator*  
USDA Forest Service  
State & Private Forestry  
1400 Independence Avenue,  
4SE  
Washington, DC 20250  
202-401-4072  
202-205-1271 fax  
[kconant@fs.fed.us](mailto:kconant@fs.fed.us)

**Deirdre Raimo**

*Forest Legacy Program  
Coordinator*  
USDA Forest Service  
Northeastern Area – State  
& Private Forestry  
271 Mast Road  
Durham, NH 03824  
603-868-7695  
603-868-7604 fax  
[draimo@fs.fed.us](mailto:draimo@fs.fed.us)

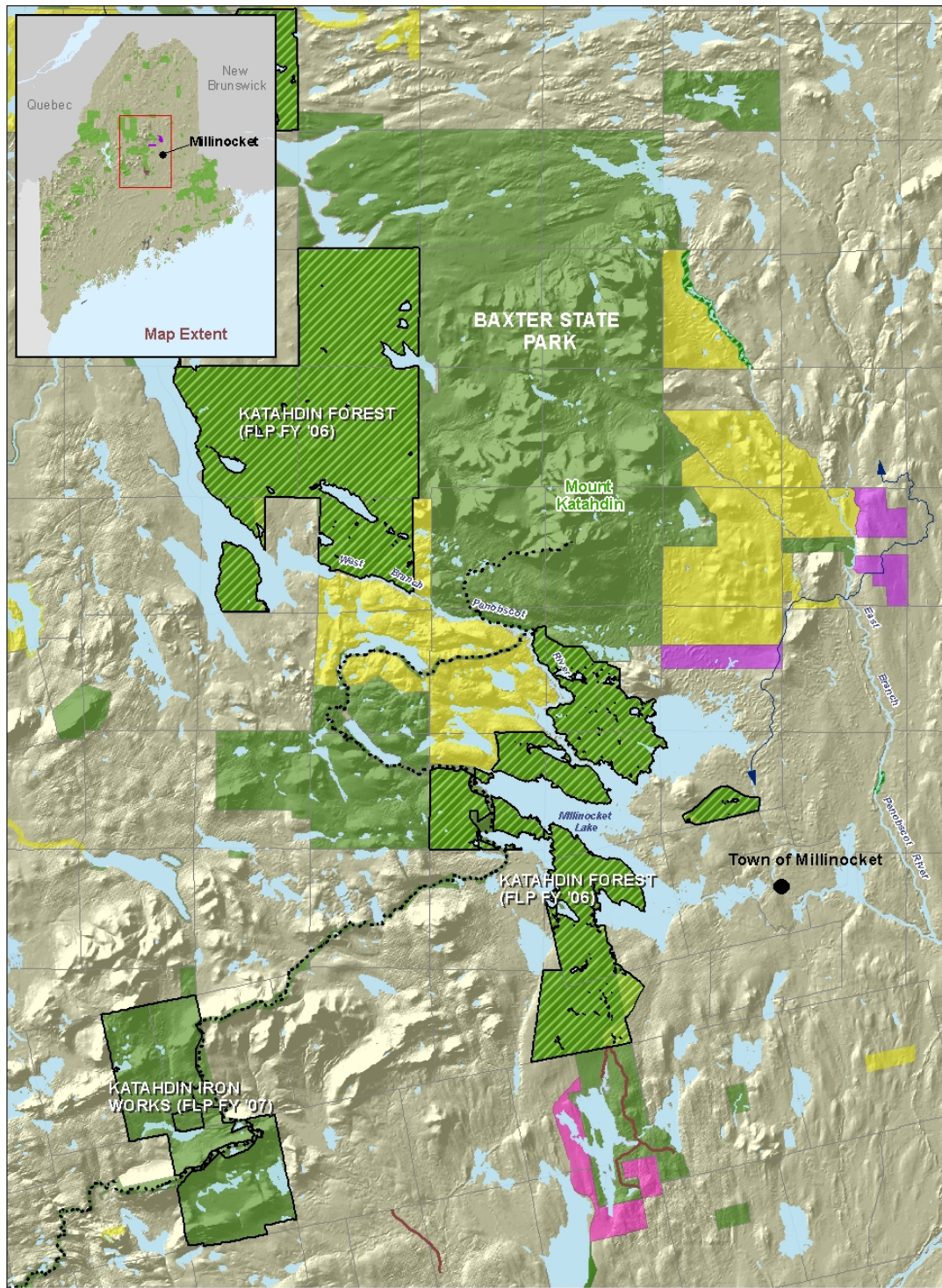
**Alan Stearns**

*Director, Bureau of Parks and  
Lands*  
Maine Bureau of Parks and  
Lands  
Department of Conservation  
State House Station 22  
Augusta, ME 04333-0022  
207-287-4911  
207-287-3821 fax  
[alan.stearns@maine.gov](mailto:alan.stearns@maine.gov)





# Katahdin Forest Expansion Forest Legacy Project



- Seboeis Lake Tracts-West and South (8,044 acres)
- East Branch Tracts (11,520 acres)
- State & Federal Conservation Lands, Fee and Easement
- Katahdin Forest Easements
- Previously Completed FLP Projects

- Private Conservation Holdings
  - State - Owned ATV trails
  - ←→ Snowmobile trail partially protected by agreement
  - Appalachian Trail
- 0 2 4 8 Miles



Maine Natural Areas Program  
November 17, 2008